

IN THE CLAIMS:

I claim ~~What is claimed is:~~

1. (Currently Amended) A method for linking business interests, comprising the steps of:
receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;
providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;
linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets via the provider;
~~combining~~ connecting the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers ~~to create at least one new business~~ via the provider; and
negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers ~~to create for an equity stake in the~~ at least one new business.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said business venture assets ~~consists~~ comprises at least one from [[of]] a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, material inventories, purchase agreements, product purchases, and investment capital.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the linking step further comprises creating an item selection criteria by at least one of the plurality of customers, wherein an item corresponds to a business venture asset ~~consists of the customer creating item selection criteria~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of ~~the customer~~ providing an item selection criteria to the provider by at least one of the plurality of customers.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of the provider ~~providing~~ displaying to at least one of the plurality of customers an item or items indicated by the item selection criteria ~~to the customer~~.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the provider utilized a computer system to implement the linking of business venture assets.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the computer system uses the internet in the form of a web portal.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for linking business interests to customers, the computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;

providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;

linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets via the provider; ~~and combining connecting~~ the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers via the provider to create at least one new business; and negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein said business interests ~~consists~~ comprises at least one from [[of]] a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the linking step further comprises ~~consists of the customer~~ creating an item selection criteria by at least one of the plurality of customers.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising

the step of ~~the customer~~ providing an item selection criteria to the provider by at least one of the plurality of customers.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of the provider ~~providing~~ displaying to at least one of the plurality of customers an item or items indicated by the item selection criteria ~~to the customer~~.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for linking business interests, comprising:

one or more processors; and

a memory communicatively coupled to the one or more processors, the memory including one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider;

providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;

linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets via the provider; and ~~combining~~ connecting the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers via the provider; and ~~to create at least one new business, wherein each of the linked customers negotiate for an equity stake in the at least one new business~~

negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said business interests ~~consists~~ comprises at least one from ~~[[of]]~~ a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the linking step further comprises creating an item selection criteria by at least one of the plurality of customers ~~consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising the step of ~~the customer~~ providing an item selection criteria to the provider by at least one of the plurality of customers.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising the step of the provider ~~providing~~ displaying to at least one of the plurality of customers and item or items indicated by the item selection criteria ~~to the customer~~.